

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-15, 19-22, 24-27, 29-33, and 35-48 are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. In this response, claims 1, 4, 5, 20, 22, 26, 32, 35-37, and 45 have been amended and claims 23, 33, and 34 have been cancelled. Applicant believes the claim amendments and the accompanying remarks herein serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Even though all previously pending claims were allowed, Applicant submits herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Response, which includes amended claims. The claims have been amended to further clarify the invention being claimed. The RCE is also being filed to have the USPTO consider additional references. Applicant respectfully submits that even with the claim amendments, the pending claims remain allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

If any questions remain regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Applicant: Peter M. Bonutti
Application No.: 10/795,887
Examiner: Elana Beth Fisher

A fee for an RCE is believed to be due and is being paid via credit card. However, please charge any required fee (or credit overpayments) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 503410 (Docket No. 780-A04-012-1A).

Respectfully submitted,

/ Paul D. Bianco /

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